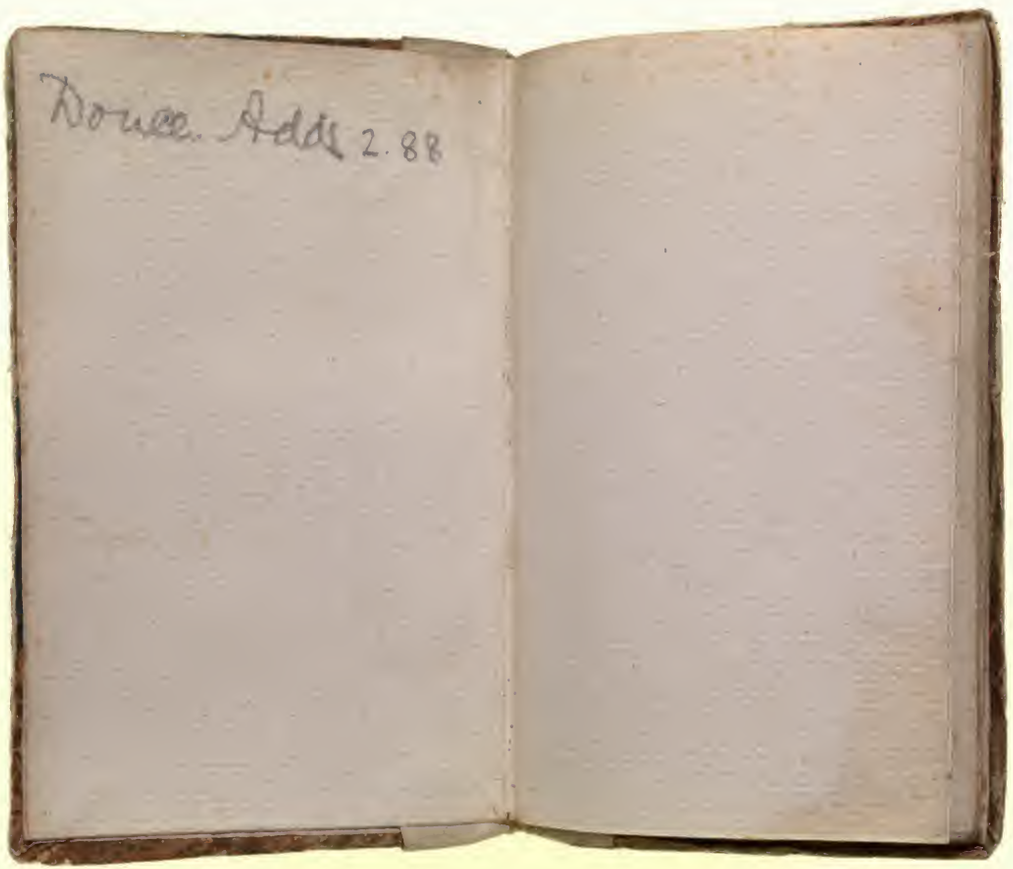
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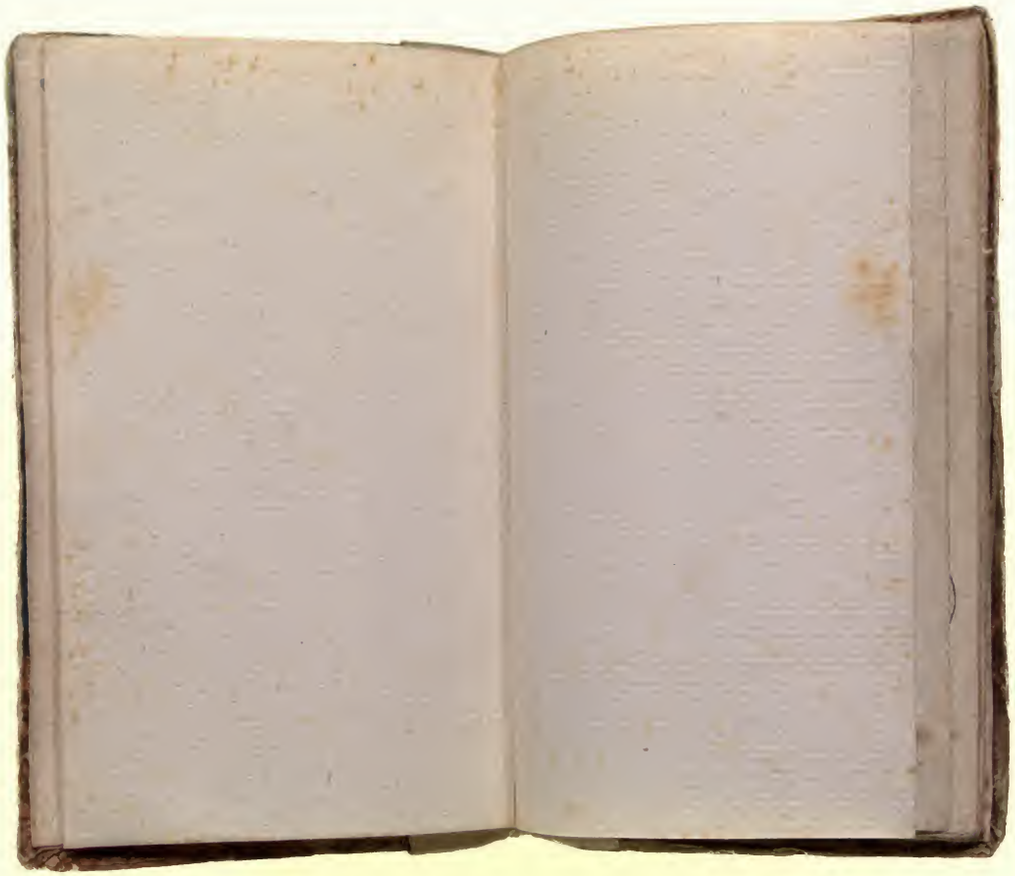

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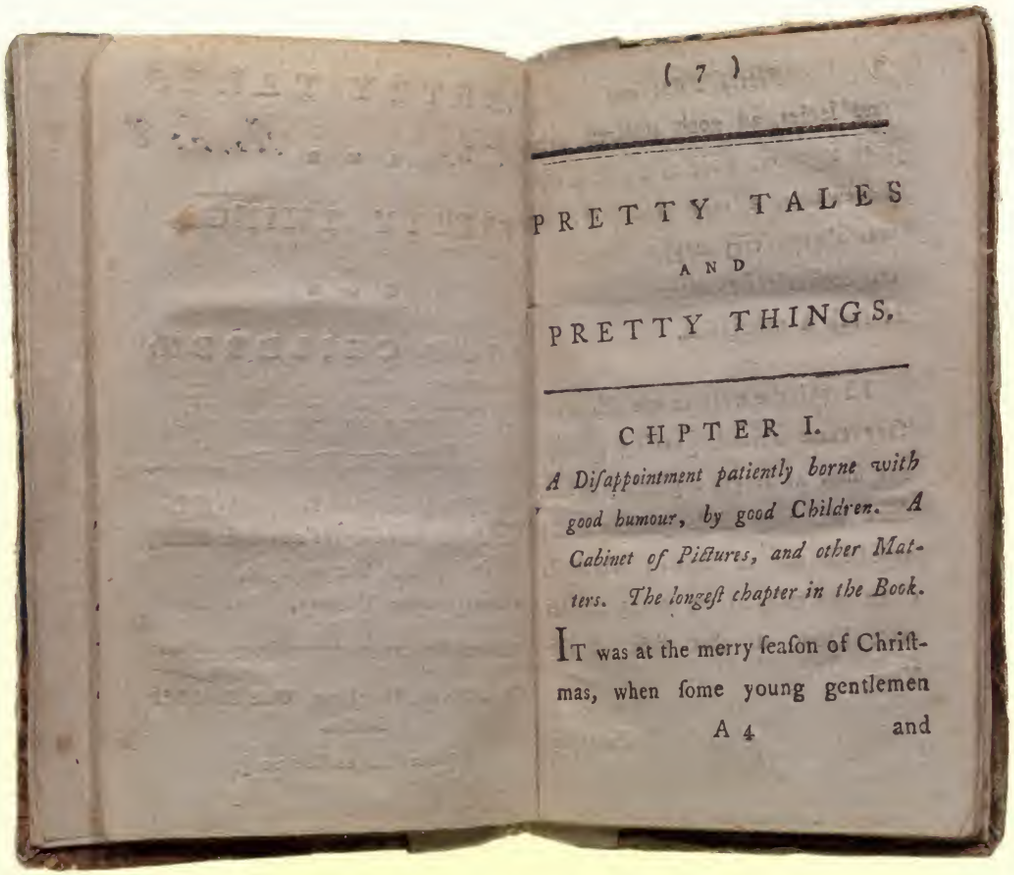


PRETTY TALES AND PRETTY THINGS.

CHPTER I.

A Diſappointment patiently borne with good humour, by good Children. A Cabinet of Pictures, and other Matters. The longeſt chapter in the Book.

IT was at the merry ſeaſon of Chriſtmas, when ſome young gentlemen

and ladies, all good children, be
met together, went on a visit to M
Lovewell's, a very kind lady, w
was always very happy whenever
was convenient to entertain little fol
of such a description.

Though the weather was fair wh
they came abroad, growing gloom
and snow at length beginning to fal
there was very little pastime to b
expected out of doors; which i
often the case, as my young reader
must know, at that time of the
Year.

However

However, they played at a great many pretty, little, harmless sports, by which they passed the time away. And when they were tired of these Mrs. Lovewell proposed shewing them her library and her pictures.

In the first of these they found many good and pretty books, and especially little books for children, some of which the lady made them a present of, and they were highly delighted with them.

Among the pictures the first she showed to them was the creation of

the world, as you ſee it here, mak-
ing ſuitable obſervations on the power
and goodneſs of God, who was pleaſ-
ed to make the earth, ſun, moon,
and ſtars, man, birds, and beaſts as
we ſee them, for his glory, and the
good

they intended ſhould reach to hea-
ven. See! this is the picture of it.

But God, diſpleaſed with ſuch pre-
ſumption, confounded their language,
ſo that they could not underſtand one
another, but each anſwering the o-
ther's queſtion contrawiſe, after gab-
bling

bling moſt hideouſly, they ſeparate
and left the whole a ſcene of co
fuſion."

Each wicked hope, each fooliſh aim,
Thus merits the reward of ſhame.
When you're to idle thoughts inclin'd,
You make a BABEL *in your mind.*

" But here is a far different kin
of building, which was the wond
of the world, favoured by God hi
ſelf with his preſence, and whi

peop

people came from far countries to behold. View the extent, the loftineſs of the edifice, and when you obſerve St. Paul's, of which you have ſo often ſeen the original, mind how this church, the boaſt of London, will look when compared with it.

The

The Temple was of old renown'd,
By Solomon with ſplendour crown'd,
This in the holy city ſtood,
And princes wonder'd while they viewed.

Maſter Searchwell and and M
Lively made many remarks on
pictures, in conſequence of w

hey were defered, by Mrs. Lovewell,
to the deſcription of the building it-
ſelf, as it is to be found in the books
of Kings and Chronicles.

" And, pray Madam," ſaid maſter
Searchwell, " do not the gentlemen
that call themſelves Free Maſons talk
of Hiram, the royal builder employed
by Solomon to build this temple, as
their firſt grand maſter? I think I
have heard my uncle ſay ſomething
of this ſort; and he is one of them."

" My dear," anſwered Mrs. Love-
well, " all ſocieties are fond of being

thought

thought ancient, and in times back they cannot always eaſily caught in a fib. As to the Maſons they are of antiquity; according to hiſtory, (which I you will one time ſtudy) they their beginning to a ſociety of real maſons, who went from country to another, about the of our king Henry III. to aſſi erecting churches wherever they wanting. But from the time of Solomon till thoſe days, it is tain no ſuch ſociety was heard Maſter Searchwell, I commend

for aſking; for there is not any thing more praiſe-worthy, nor more uſeful than to love truth, and ſeek it wherever it is to be found. — The next picture I ſhall ſhow you is that on the right hand, of the man thrown out of the Whale's mouth, which you ſee had ſwallowed him."

"That repreſents Jonah, I ſuppoſe," ſaid Maſter Mildways, "and I think his fault was diſobedience."

Mrs. Lovewell anſwered, "It was; and his preſumption beſides, in daring to diſpute with God about his judgments,

judgments, which, though he wa
prophet, brought evil upon hi

When God and good men bear the fe
Learn not to argue, *but* obey.

The laſt picture I ſhall ſhow
is that of the aſcenſion of our bl
Sav

Saviour, who, having died for the ſins of the whole world, roſe again, and was afterwards received into heaven; as, no doubt you, maſters Searchwell and Mildways, and I hope alſo you, Miſs Lively, have read in your Teſtament."

For

For Man the ranſom being given,
The Lord of Life aſcends to heav'n.

Here ended the little ſelect exhi-
bitio of t he ay's cabinet, but no
till the young folks had ſufficient
admired the extraordinary beauty
the repreſentations; all of which wer
indeed capital pictures.

CHA

CHAP. II.

Further Plans for innocent Diverſion. The Story of a Naughty Boy, with the Conſequences.

AFTER the young folks had been gratified in this particular, Maſter Mildways obſerving, that the weather continued as unfavourable as ever to any little excurſions, which might otherwiſe have contributed to their pleaſure, Lucy Lively obſerv-
to Mrs. Lovewell, that there was

a ſort of diverſion, which, with ſ
miſſion, ſhe thought they might
and that was, that each ſhould
late ſome ſtory for the entertainm
of the reſt.

Mrs. Lovewell declared in fa
of this motion, and added, "
if the young people would be
ful in their choice, it might p
bly contribute to their delight,
very likely alſo to their impr
ment."

Miſs Lucy having firſt ſtarted
thought was deſired to ſet the examp

on which, as ſhe found ſhe had the encouragement of Mrs. Lovewell and all preſent, ſhe proceeded in the following manner:

Somewhere in Weſtminſter there lived a tradeſman and his wife in good buſineſs, who had a ſon, called Billy, an only child, whom all the neighbours obſerved they indulged too much; and yet he was never the better for ſuch indulgence. He was always concerned in ſome unlucky trick, and one time, being ſent on a meſſage one ſummer's morning, which

he

he might have delivered and returned again within an hour, he did not come back till the evening, and then brought a butterfly with him, (of which his papa had many curious ones) which he ſaid he had

been all day chaſing; and this was taken for an excuſe.

Another time his couſin Polly, then on a viſit at his papa's houſe, having a pretty bird, which ſhe was extremely fond of, this naughty boy took it away ſlily, and gave in exchange for a top to one of his rude playfellows.

This likewiſe was paſſed by very
eaſily, becauſe he excuſed himſelf with
a fib, by ſaying he had only taken
it out of the cage to look at it, and
the creature flew away. So being
always believed or excuſed, he con-
tinually came off without punish-
ment.

In conſequence of this good luck
(as he thought it) he continued fib-
bing, and doing miſchief, till one day
he paid ſeverely for his folly.

Having reſolved to play truant with
ſome of his companions, they agreed

to go into the fields together, where
they wandered till it was evening,
when, by degrees, Billy loſt all his
ſchool-fellows, and, being alone, loſt
his way. In ſhort, he was ſo much
out of his knowledge, that he, be-
ing bewildered, and very ſleepy, went
over a ſtile, thinking to lay himſelf
down for a little while, but the high
graſs had hid a piece of water from
him, into which he fell as ſoon as
he had croſſed. The place was at a

great diſtance from any houſes, that he muſt have been drowned it had not been for a poor h maker, who, coming from his wo plunged into the water, and ſav him from death.

He was carried home in a ſad condition, and lay for a long time as if he had been dead, till by care

he was brought to himſelf again; but he went through a great deal of illneſs afterwards, and, as I have

heard, has never been able to use his limbs properly ſince this accident."

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Maſter Mildways entertains the Company.—The Story of Sadi.—All Happineſs the Fruit of a contented Mind.

WHEN Lucy had finiſhed her ſtory, the little company made ſome reflections on the ill conſequences of diſobedience, telling falſhoods, and neglect of learning and duty, applied to Maſter Mildways for his ſtory, on which he ſpoke in the following manner:

 "I hope

" I hope," ſaid he, " I ſhall be excuſed here when I declare, that I cannot immediately recollect any ſtory but one, which I remember to have read; but as it was in a written hand, and I am pretty ſure has never been printed, it will be new to the company."

Being aſſured every body would be glad to hear it, he thus proceeded:

IN the great city of Iſpahan, in Perſia, there lived a merchant that had a ſon, to whom he gave ſuch edu-

cation as young people generally receive in that country; and as he was a good and obedient ſon, and was very acute, the labour and expence did not appear to be ill beſtowed.

But Sadi (that was his name) was very impatient in his temper, and very frequently ſhewed marks of uneaſineſs where there ſeemed to be no occaſion. After his father's death this temper grew upon him.

Though he found himſelf poſſeſſed of riches; yet he was not happy; becauſe he always wiſhed for ſome new enjoyment, and as ſoon as he got his wiſh wanted ſomething elſe.

One day, walking abroad, and ſeeing a young woman milking her co[w]

he was mortified to obſerve ſhe appeared more cheerful than himſelf. He obſerved to her that ſhe ſeemed to be poor, and aſked her from whence her happineſs aroſe? She anſwered, *From a contented mind.* And he went home the more melancholy on the occaſion.

Tired of his ſplendid dwelling, he reſolved to wander abroad in ſearch of adventures, or rather in ſearch of the means of happineſs. He had not gone far before he ſaw a beggar aſking alms, whom he thought

very

very miſerable; but following him

on the way, obſerved him ſingi[ng] and giving every ſign of happine[ss]. He alſo aſked him what made h[im] ſo cheerful? and the beggar anſwe[r]ed—*A contented Mind.*

Thou[gh]

Though ſuch anſwers might have ſufficed, the fretfulneſs and unhappineſs of Sadi ſtill continued. He wandered till he came into a great foreſt, where, being quite weary, and having taken but very little food, he was tired, and, ſitting down, fell aſleep under a great tree, without the leaſt thought of inconvenience or danger. But a little before day-break he was awakened by the roaring of wild beaſts, and ſoon after he opened his eyes he ſaw, by the glimmering light of the moon, a frightful large lion at a little diſtance; on which

he

took to flight as quick as poſſible, as might well be expected, from ſo dreadful an enemy.

It was eaſy for Sadi to leave h houſe and ſeek his fortune, wh Fortune had been already favourab to him at home. But it was n

ſo eaſy for him to return when he pleaſed.

Loſt and bewildered, he wandered through unknown paths, and though he was not without money, as well as other valuable things, concealed in his cloaths, yet not being near any houſe or habitation of man, he was often ready to periſh with hunger. Acorns and wild berries ſerved him to eat, and he was happy when he could find, in that very hot country, a little water to quench his thirſt.

Thus

Thus he wandered for many day
A thouſand and a thouſand time
as you may ſuppoſe, did he with
be again ſafe at Iſpahan, and
thouſand vows did he offer up
heaven, if that wiſh ſhould be gra
ed, to entertain wild deſires and f
cies no more.

While he was one evening lam
ing his condition, and withou
place where to lay his head, he
a glimmering light, which he
lowed, and it guided him to a
tle cell, where he ſaw a female pr

ing very earneſtly. Before he could ſpeak to her a winged genius appeared, who ſaid, in a loud voice, Selima, art thou now ſatisfied that it is as fooliſh as it is wicked to complain of thy lot? She anſwered, That ſhe was.—Where then wilt thou place

thy

thy happineſs? — She replied, *In a contented Mind.* — Return then, cr… the Princeſs Curdiſtan, thy foes … no more. — And thou, Sadi, … turn to Iſpahan, if thy diſcont… are no more: while they remain … ſearch muſt be vain for happine… Children of the duſt! learn to … ſign yourſelves to the will of … vidence.

The Princeſs of Curdiſtan dep… ed, and the Genius in an inſt… conveyed Sadi to his houſe at Iſ… han, which he found a friend … taken care to ſecure for him, …

his treaſures, in his abſcence. He lived there long and happy, married, and had ſeven children, to all of whom he taught this leſſon, that happineſs is only to be found *in a contented Mind.*

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Another Disappointment.—Mrs. Lo-well's Story.—A heedless and naug Boy reclaimed.—End of the Day Entertainment.

THOUGH all the young folks pr-fent were not equally acquainted w Eastern Tales, yet they could perceive that this which master Mi ways had recited was very entertai ing; and it likewise appeared t moral was, that every person, hi

or low, young or old, should be content with his station; which moral indeed Mrs. Lovewell enforced, and, in a most agreeable and engaging manner, did all that was in her power to explain to them the eastern manner of telling stories, which contributed very much to the instruction and amusement of her young hearers.

It would now have come to the urn of Master Searchwell to tell his story; but here was another great disappointment, for that young gen-

tleman and his ſiſter Emily both ſent for home much earlier they expected, and went away the meſſenger who came for th directly without murmuring, a good children ought moſt cer to do.

But now Maſter Mildway Miſs Lively, who had acquitted ſelves extremely well of their as you have before ſeen, begge Mrs. Lovewell would be ſo kind as to favour them with o her ſtories. She being willing ob

oblige them, promiſed to relate to them a ſhort one, and after a little pauſe began a follows :

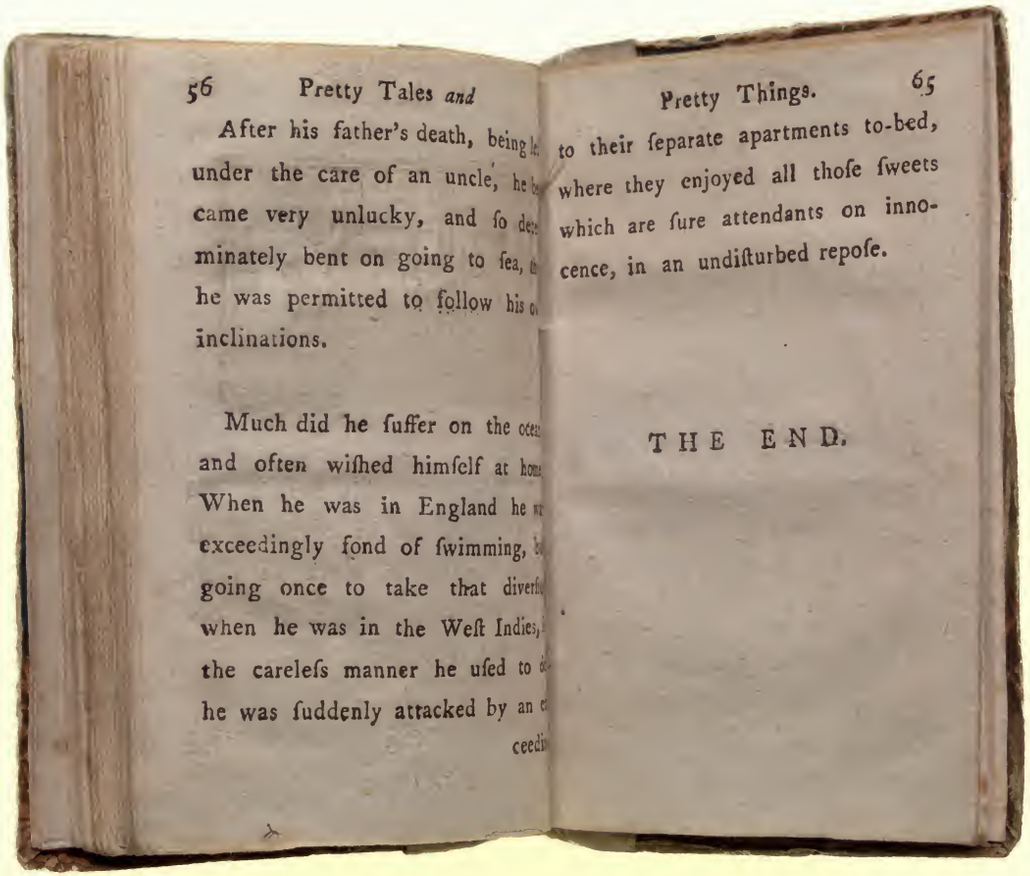
WHEN I myſelf was a child I once knew a little boy, whom nobody that told the truth could at firſt ſay was what we ſhould call a wicked, ill-natured, or ſtubborn, no nor a ſtupid boy, though he was ſometimes naughty, as we find children in general are ; and ſo indeed they would be very naughty that ſhould preſume to ſuppoſe themſelves perfect.

But the great fault of Geo
Granger at that time was, that
was heedleſs to the laſt degree, a
was conſequently very often diſobe
dient, without obſtinacy or defig
He was tolerably attentive to
learning while he was at his boo
yet, as ſoon as he threw it aſi
he was very apt to forget wha
had but a little time before
reading; ſo alſo he was ready to
ceive advice, but generally forgot
follow it.

He was not naturally miſchievous,
but he was very eaſily led into almoſt
any kind of miſchief, and thus tha
dangerous inclination grew upon him.
Amongſt other things, he and ſome
others of his companions drove a poor
man's aſs out of the fields where it was

grazing, and wantonly rode it a-
moſt to death: George was the laſt
and the beaſt, after being harraſſed
till it was juſt ready to drop, be-
ing run againſt by a carriage, he
fell down, was very much bruiſed
and narrowly eſcaped being run over.
Beſides this ſuch a complaint was
made of the exceeding cruelty uſed
to the poor animal, that he was
ſeverely chaſtiſed for his bad beha-
viour, and was obliged to aſk par-
don.

But this diſagreeable ſituation did not ſtop him, for he continued his wanton courſes as much as ever, till at laſt, from being careleſs, became very naughty.

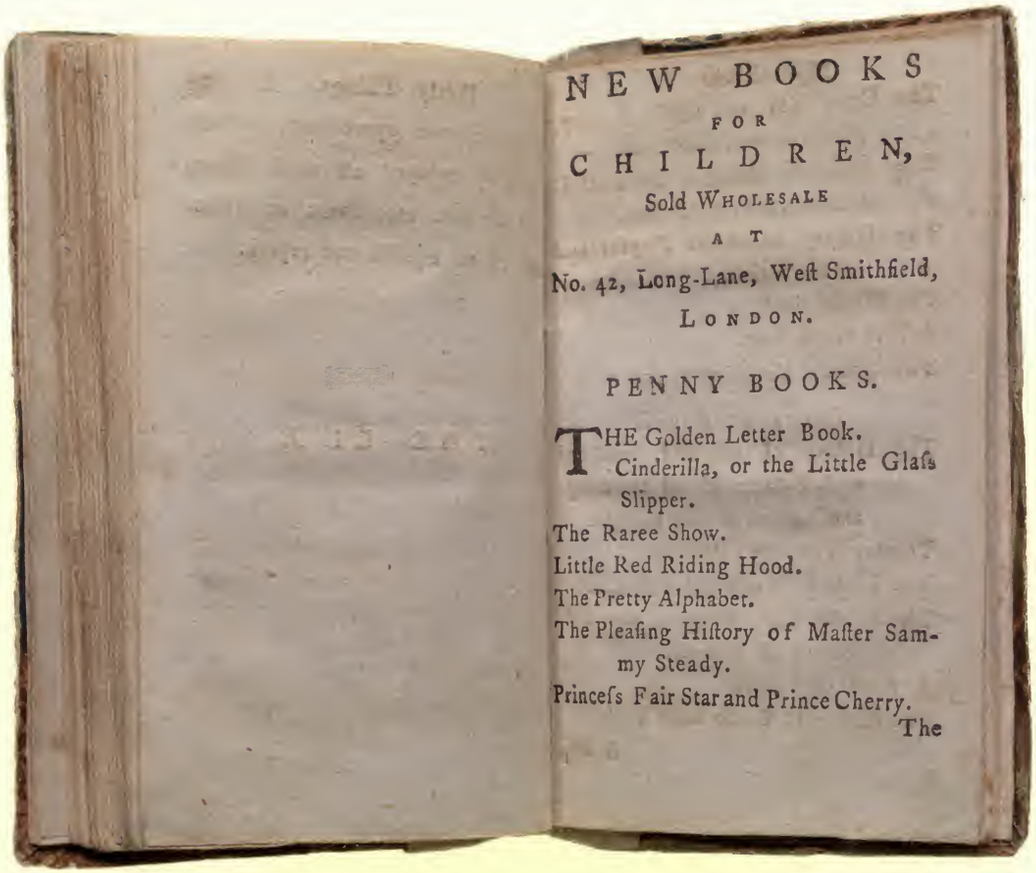


After his father's death, being le
under the care of an uncle, he b
came very unlucky, and ſo det
minately bent on going to ſea, t
he was permitted to follow his o
inclinations.

Much did he ſuffer on the ocea
and often wiſhed himſelf at hom
When he was in England he w
exceedingly fond of ſwimming, b
going once to take that diverſi
when he was in the Weſt Indies,
the careleſs manner he uſed to d
he was ſuddenly attacked by an e
ceedi

to their ſeparate apartments to-bed, where they enjoyed all thoſe ſweets which are ſure attendants on innocence, in an undiſturbed repoſe.

THE END.



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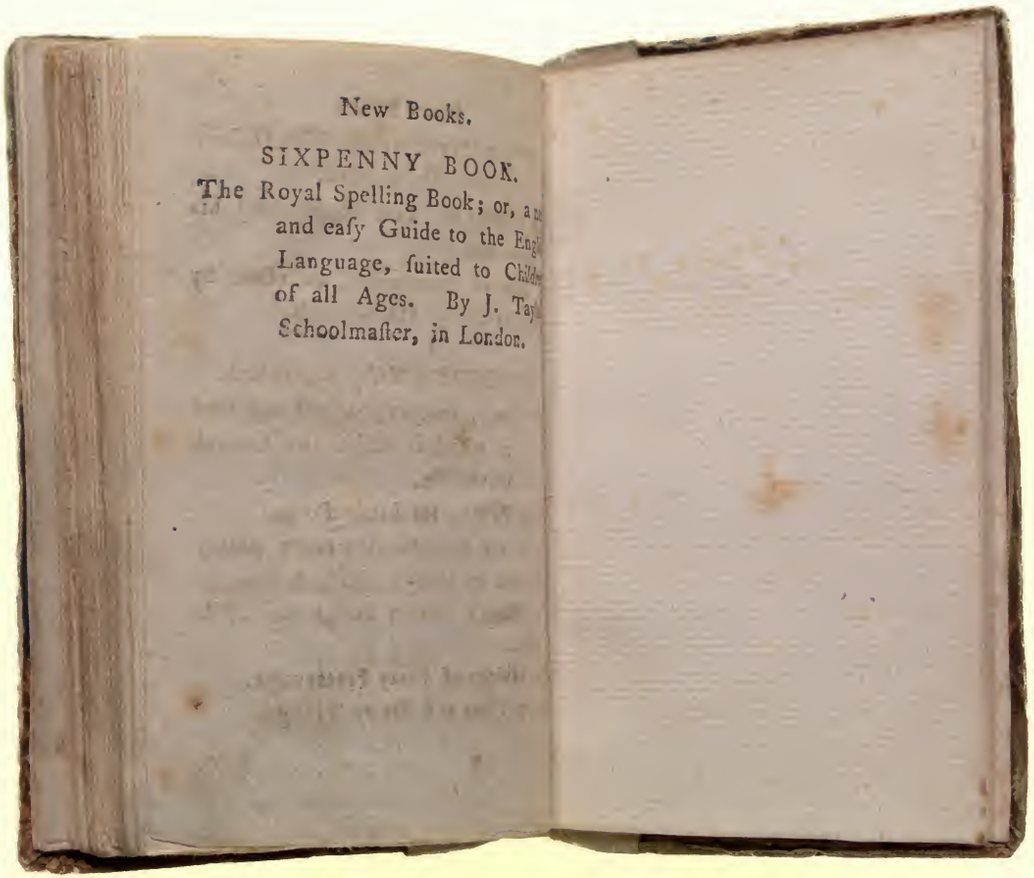

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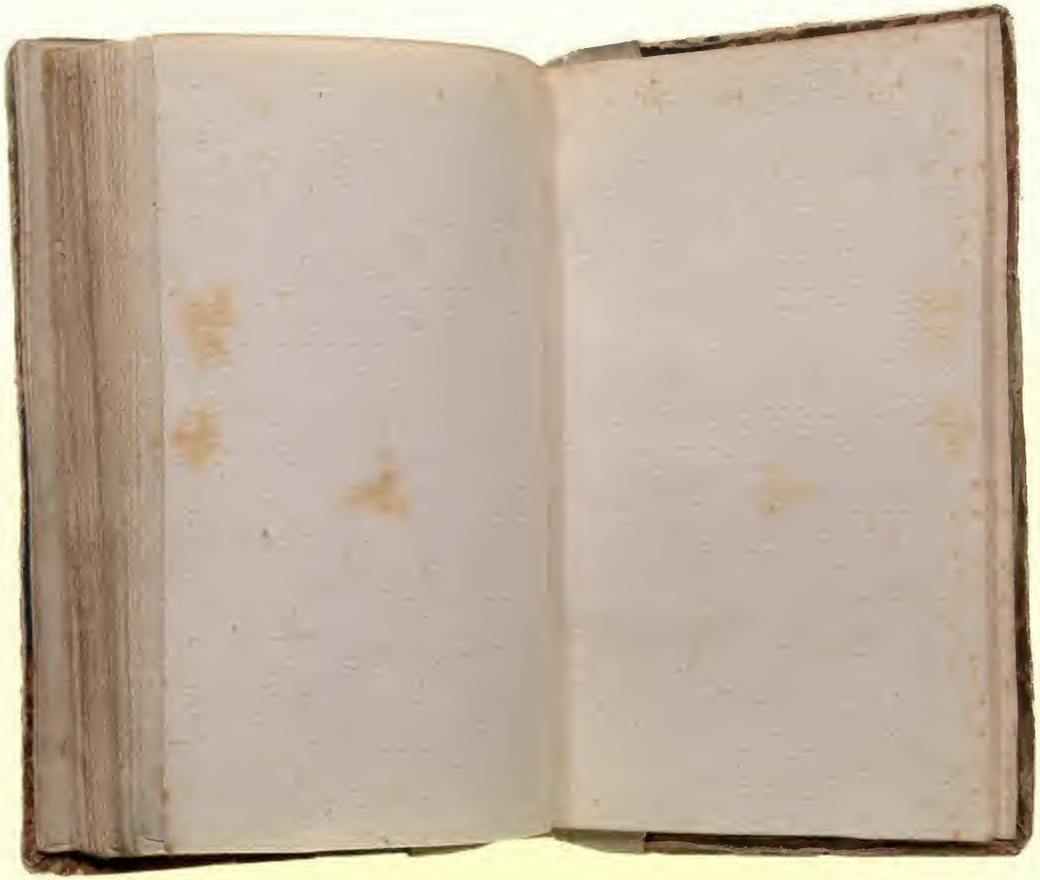

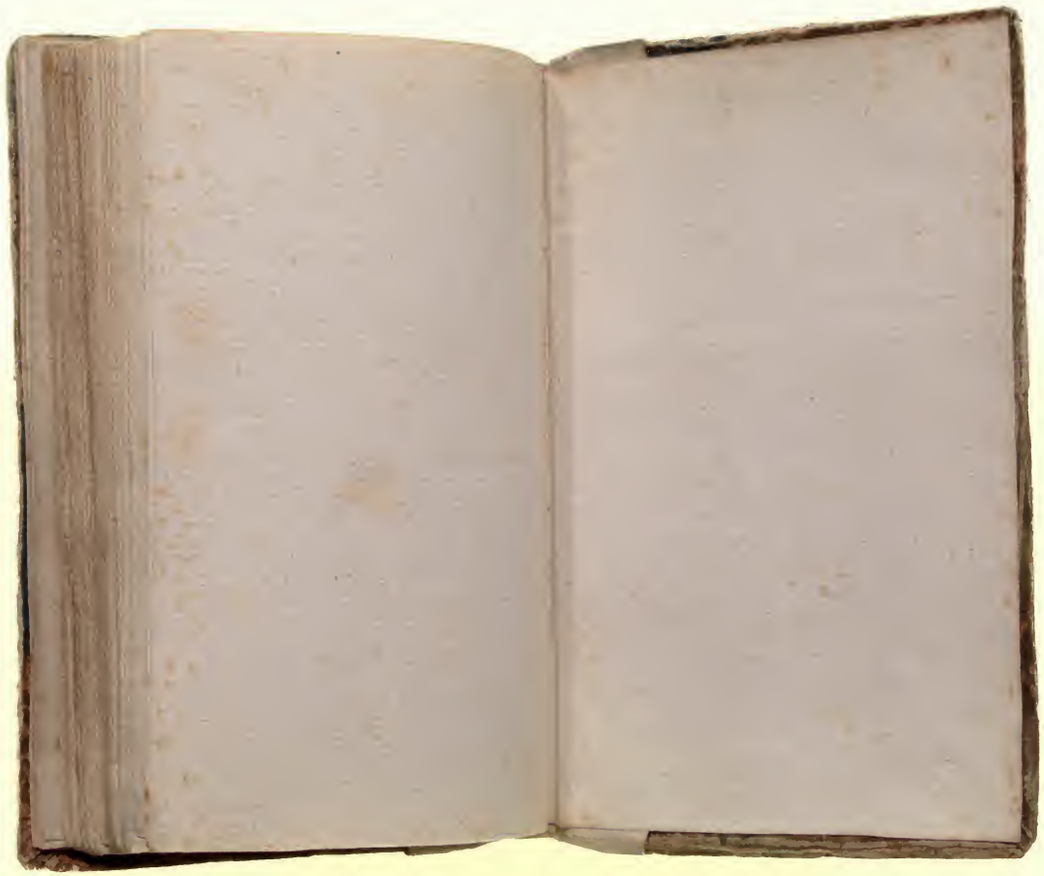

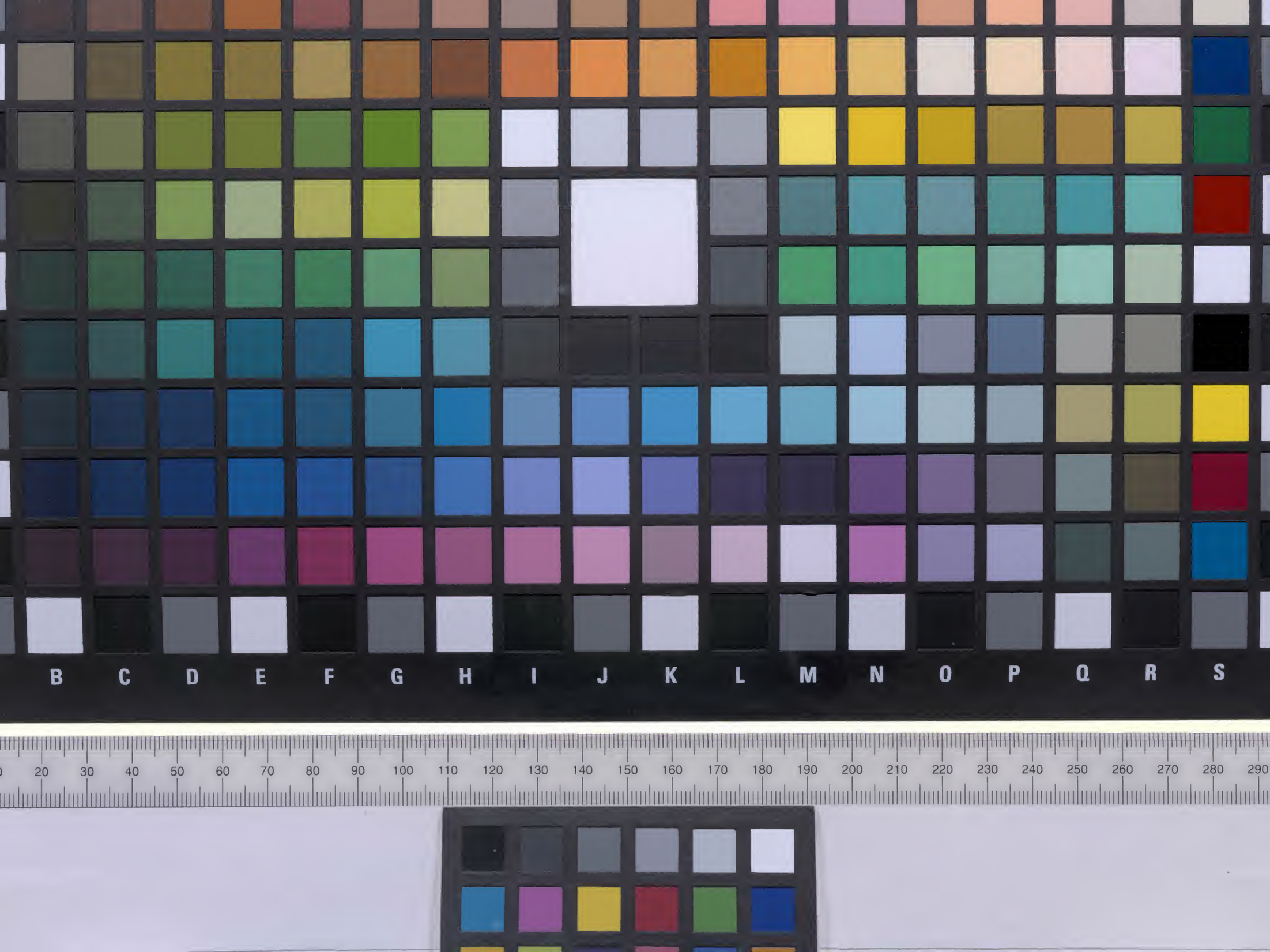
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